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55. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.

56. (New) The guide wire of claim 55 wherein the multifilar wire is cross-wound.

REMARKS

In the Amendment and Response of January 29, 2001, Applicants requested an official filing receipt, which had not been received from the Patent Office. Applicants note that an official filing receipt was not forwarded with the instant Office action, and accordingly renew their request for the filing receipt.

Applicants' undersigned representative thanks Examiner Wingood for discussing the Office action over the telephone.

Applicants hereby amend claims 22 and 31, and add new claims 34-56. Claims 22-26 and 28-56 are now pending. Claims 22 and 41 are the only two pending independent claims. Applicants submit that none of the amended or new claims introduces new matter, and that claims 22-26 and 28-56 are all in condition for allowance. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the originally filed application at, for example, pages 7, 8, 9, and 10 and in, for example, original claim 21 and FIG. 2. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto.

Claims 22-26, 30, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Morrison et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,748,986) in view of Deem (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,876). Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Morrison in view of Deem and further in view of Beisel (U.S. Patent No. 5,97,940). Claims 30 and 31 are objected to.

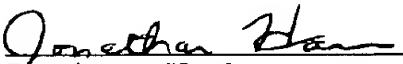
Applicants respectfully submit that none of the above-cited references teaches or suggests a unitary coil extending distal of the distal portion of the core, as recited in amended independent claim 22 and newly added independent claim 41. Applicants therefore submit that independent claims 22 and 41 are in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that claims 23-26, 28-40, and 42-56 are allowable as depending from allowable independent claims.

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Accordingly, Applicants request consideration and allowance of claims 22-26 and 28-56 in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

22. (Twice Amended) A guide wire comprising:
an elongate core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy and including a length and a distal portion; and
a unitary coil [including a distal end and] composed of a second material and that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core.
31. (Amended) The guidewire of claim 22 further comprising a tip bonded to a [the] distal end of the coil and comprising a polymeric material.
34. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a coating.
35. (New) The guide wire of claim 34 wherein the coating is lubricious.
36. (New) The guide wire of claim 34 wherein the coating is colored.
37. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.
38. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.
39. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.
40. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the multifilar wire is cross-wound.

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41. (New) A guide wire comprising:

a core including a length and a distal portion; and
a unitary coil that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core.
42. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil surrounds a portion of the core near a proximal end of the core.
43. (New) The guide wire of claim 42 wherein the coil surrounds the proximal end of the core.
44. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil surrounds the entire length of the core.
45. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil extends along the length of the core from the portion of the core near a proximal end of the core to distal of the distal portion of the core.
46. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the distal portion of the core is tapered.
47. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 further comprising a tip bonded to a distal end of the coil and comprising a polymeric material.
48. (New) The guide wire of claim 47 wherein the tip comprises a radio-opaque material.
49. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies along the length of the core.

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50. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil comprises a coating.

51. (New) The guide wire of claim 50 wherein the coating is lubricious.

52. (New) The guide wire of claim 50 wherein the coating is colored.

53. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.

54. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.

55. (New) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.

56. (New) The guide wire of claim 55 wherein the multifilar wire is cross-wound.

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